



For Immediate Release

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Senator Gregg: Reconciliation is the Wrong Vehicle for Health Care Reform
"Deadline" for Reconciliation Legislation to Be Sent to Budget Committee Has Passed

Senator Judd Gregg, ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, today commented on the October 15 deadline for reconciliation legislation, as specified by the FY 2010 Budget Resolution:

"Despite the fact that the Budget Resolution specified that any reconciliation legislation from the HELP and Finance Committees was due to the Budget Committees by October 15, the status of those submissions continues to be unclear. What is clear, however, is that reconciliation is the wrong vehicle for sweeping health care reform.

"Reconciliation was created as a fiscal policy tool to bring spending and revenues in line with the budget resolution assumptions and its primary focus has been deficit reduction. Health care reform is not fiscal policy – it is a set of sweeping policy changes that impact every American and one-sixth of the U.S. economy. It is not something that should be rushed through in partisan manner with limited debate over just a few days.

"To use reconciliation in this manner not only deprives the Senate from holding a full debate, but it does a tremendous disservice to the millions of Americans who will be affected by this legislation. A policy change as large as this, one that will have a massive impact on the nation's debt, deserves a full review by the entire membership of the U.S. Senate. Reconciliation should not be used as a political tool, and I hope that the Majority will work in a more bipartisan manner on this issue so important to all Americans."